

## Button Hole vision

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including advising on the driving range, providing publicity to generate funds, and contacting others in the industry to help as Button Hole moves ahead.

"He never lets me down," Mauro said.

There's help on the job as well, according to Mauro. Volunteer Vinnie DeQuattro is a retired administrative worker for one of the largest road-building contractors in the state, and he's out at the site each day directing traffic as the earth is moved.

Izzo Construction, who was hired to build the course, found clean fill for the project, and has been bringing it in to help with the contours of the ground.

Dave Wallace of Tee and Seed "helped tremendously," by providing the sod at a very attractive price, Mauro said.

There are others, not even remotely related to the golf industry, who have helped as well.

"Dave Gavitt was the basketball coach at Providence College and the former executive general manager of the Boston Celtics," Mauro said, "and when he saw the property, he announced that his job would be to get golf clubs for the players. So we now have display stands and bins for these clubs and for golf balls at almost every public and private course in Rhode Island. The clubs are coming in like wildfire.

"Originally, we were going to cut down the clubs," he added, "but now we are planning to sell the donated clubs and get kids' clubs from the manufacturers. The manufacturers point out that if we want to help the kids play golf, they have to have the right clubs in their hands."

Hundreds of others have seen the vision for Button Hole, and have volunteered funds, time, and expertise in a variety of ways to help the project get off the ground and become a benchmark for First Tee. The community has rallied, too, from the state's participation to the support of Providence to the agencies within the various governments. There is grassroots support as well. Throughout the construction process, Mauro said, there has only been one small incident of vandalism, and signs, which are usually filled with graffiti on a project like this don't have a mark on them.

And through it all, Mauro takes little credit for the outpouring of support for a small idea that has grown into a big plan.

"I can't conceive of anything happening as it did for this project," he said. "There are so many things that have happened that we didn't make happen; they just came about. I truly believe that God's hands are on this project." ↑

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## Tater Hill GC undergoing facelift and name change

N. WINDHAM, Vt. — All 18 greens and tees will be relocated and fairways shifted in a complete redesign of Tater Hill Golf Course here. The \$1.1-million project at the semi-private club will be done in four phases over the coming years.

The course also will be renamed to call attention to the sweeping changes and its new persona. The existing name, Tater Hill, refers to the fertile old potato fields

over which the course is built. New names have been solicited from the membership and one will be selected soon.

Larger greens and finger-laying the design of the fairways are two of the notable changes in the redesign, drafted by architect Barry Jordan of Fayetteville, N.Y. The modifications will result in a course that continues to challenge all golfers.

Play will continue uninterrupted as the

work progresses, using temporary greens and tees as each hole is reworked.

"Eleven new holes and reconstruction of all remaining greens are highlights of a plan which will vastly improve routing, playability and strategy of the course," Jordan said. He added that the new design will test a player's ability to position shots upon a rolling terrain while moving them through a unique combination of golf landscapes.

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